

**For Immediate Release:**

**April 24, 2004**

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## **Neighborhood Improvements Draw on Community's Heritage**

*Improvements to Edenvale Garden Park mark beginning  
of dramatic changes in the greater Edenvale area*

**San José** – Members of the greater Edenvale community celebrated today (April 24, 2004) the completion of more than \$1 million in enhancements to the historic Edenvale Garden Park, marking the beginning of a series of planned improvements to the greater Edenvale neighborhood that will draw significantly upon the community's rich heritage and restore the area to a family destination.

The park site was once part of the expansive Hayes Estate, and its significant tree canopy is a remnant of the Hayes gardens and arboretum. From 1961 to 1980, the park site functioned as the popular western-themed Frontier Village Amusement Park. In 1988, the remaining portion of the site not developed for housing was acquired by the City's parks division.

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Keeping with its Frontier Village western roots, enhancements to the 19.5-acre Edenvale Garden Park include among the new play areas, a climbing rock with a “mining shaft” slide. The park also has train-themed family gathering areas, a shaded picnic area, and new restrooms. The park continues to serve as oasis in an urban setting, home to a variety of birds and offering extensive trails, a natural amphitheater, and volleyball, tennis, and half-court basketball amenities. Some of the foundations from Frontier Village are still visible in the park today.

“Edenvale Garden Park has a long history in the South Bay,” said Councilmember Forrest Williams. “Updating the park is just the first of several wonderful projects that will restore the greater Edenvale community to the family destination that it once was for San José residents and beyond.”

The next project undertaken in the Edenvale community will be the construction of the new \$11.3 million, 24,000 square-foot Edenvale Branch Library at the corner of Branham Lane East and Monterey Road. Community design workshops are currently underway, and the architecture will include elements from the historic Hayes Mansion. The public art component of the new branch library will also reflect themes that celebrate Edenvale’s rich heritage.

Other Edenvale community improvement projects in the works include new neighborhood centers, a skate park, and a new community garden, all of which will draw inspiration from historic aspects of the community, such as the former race track in Great Oaks.

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**Edenvale Garden Park**  
**Page 3 of 3**

Park improvements were funded by Hayes Mansion Phase III City Bond Funds. The Edenvale Branch Library is funded by the Branch Library Bond Measure, approved in November 2000. Partners in the overall community improvement efforts include the City of San José, San Jose Redevelopment Agency, Oak Grove School District, Dolce Hayes Mansion, Edenvale Great Oaks Plan Implementation Coalition, the Strong Neighborhoods Action committee for Edenvale/Great Oaks, the Edenvale Roundtable Community Association, and the Great Oaks Neighborhood Association.

To learn more about Edenvale Garden Park or other projects planned for the greater Edenvale community, please call the City of San José Department of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services at (408) 277-2466.

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